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Agenda item 36
Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 26 March 2014 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement of the second ministerial meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (see annex), issued on 1 March in Jakarta.

Launched by Japan in February 2013 in Tokyo, the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development is a process aimed at mobilizing and sharing East Asian economic development experiences and resources for Palestinian development. Its second ministerial meeting was held on 1 March in Jakarta under the co-chairmanship of Indonesia, Palestine and Japan. Participants reiterated their commitment to support Palestinian development through, among other efforts, capacity-building and reinvigoration of the business environment. They also emphasized that the Conference is a useful forum to promote support for Palestinians.

We would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Desra **Percaya**
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Motohide **Yoshikawa**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 26 March 2014 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Second Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development
Jakarta, 1 March 2014

Joint statement

East Asian countries partnership for Palestine

We, the Ministers, and high-ranking officials from countries in East Asia and Palestine, as well as representatives of countries and international organizations involved in the Middle East peace process and Palestinian development, met in Jakarta, on 1 March 2014, to participate in the second Conference on Cooperation among East Asia Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD).

We highlighted the statement of the President of the Republic of Indonesia about continuing Indonesia's support for Palestine's national development, and its struggle to be a sovereign country and a full member of the United Nations. This conference aims to renew continuous commitment to support Palestine so as to ensure that the Palestinians are capable of providing essential services to their people.

We further highlighted the statement of the Prime Minister of Palestine, to reaffirm that CEAPAD epitomizes the very nature of all our aspirations regarding the building of the Palestinian State. The conference should be considered as a journey together that recognizes the importance of Palestinian mobility, supporting the development of our capacity and enhancing our ability to participate within the ever-changing economic global landscape. Through CEAPAD we will continue to build partnerships across economic and political spheres and exchange knowledge. At the end, the Prime Minister expressed his hope that these combined efforts will ensure a better future for the Palestinian people.

At the meeting we:

- Reiterated the commitment of East Asian countries and international organizations to support Palestine and the ongoing Middle East peace process through supporting the development of Palestine, including capacity development and reinvigorating the business environment for the realization of the two-State solution based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.
- Emphasize CEAPAD as a forum to exchange experiences, encourage support for Palestinians, including Palestinian refugees, and add value to the already existing initiatives and processes aimed at assisting Palestinian development.
- Recalled the results of the first meeting of CEAPAD in Tokyo on 14 February 2013, at which the participants of the meeting recognized East Asian countries' political and economic standing and potential, and that countries could strengthen their constructive role and consider having regular consultations

among them, including their aid agencies, to mobilize more effective assistance to Palestinians, through:

- Emphasizing the role of the private sector in the Palestinian economic development;
- Encouraging future cooperation through the existing trilateral cooperation to implement further multifaceted capacity development efforts in Palestine;
- Considering some measures that can be carried out, namely, to ensure Palestinian national ownership of all capacity-building programmes undertaken, to identify capacities and experiences that East Asian countries can feasibly offer, to ensure coordination between the Palestine and international actors in assisting Palestinian development, and to ensure sustainability of the impacts of the programmes.

And hereby:

1. Welcome the holding of the aid coordination meeting and the private sector promotion meeting, and recognize the importance of the attached outcome documents (see annex I to the joint statement).
2. Welcome the sharing of knowledge on and experiences in East Asian economic, institutional and social development to help the State-building effort of Palestine in accordance with the national priorities.
3. Wish to respond to other needs of the Palestinians in the areas of, for instance, institution-building, community development and financial support.
4. Welcome the contribution in providing the human resources development programmes in the areas that are relevant to the experiences and capacities of East Asian countries, and in line with the Palestine National Development Plan. The list of human resources development programmes for Palestine with target areas is attached (see annex II).
5. Welcome the pledge of Japan, Indonesia and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on the programmes for promoting private sectors in Palestine (see annex III), and encourage East Asian countries and international organizations to provide programmes in this regard.
6. Highlight that the amount of the pledges made by participating countries and international organizations to support Palestinian development since the first Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development has reached $210 million.
7. Appreciate the initiative of Indonesia to start promoting private sector development in Palestine in five sectors: tourism, light manufacturing, agriculture, information and communications technology (ICT), and infrastructure (based on the Palestinian National Development Plan), through holding the Business Forum and Trade Expo on 1 and 2 March 2014, which provided opportunities to the business network making and exchanges of business missions between Palestine and East Asian countries. In this regard, the participants acknowledge the involvement and contribution of Palestine private sectors, East Asian countries and international organizations to the Business Forum and Trade Expo.

8. Appreciate continuous efforts to implement the trilateral cooperation, bearing in mind the priority areas of assistance in support of human resource development for Palestine indicated in annex II, between Japan and Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia and Japan and Singapore. The participants also welcome the new projects in the following trilateral cooperations: (i) Indonesia and Thailand; (ii) Japan and Indonesia; (iii) Japan and Malaysia; and (iv) Japan and Thailand.

9. Welcome IDB, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development in establishing a mechanism for the CEAPAD capacity-building programmes, in addition to other existing mechanisms.

10. Encourage greater engagement of civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the East Asian countries, and call for the next host of the third CEAPAD to invite them to a CEAPAD meeting, to share their experience and give contributions to assist Palestine.

11. Hold working-level meetings among interested countries, in particular the future host of the CEAPAD-related meetings, on an ad hoc basis to follow up measures decided upon and items raised in the previous meeting, as well as to prepare for the future CEAPAD meetings.

12. Invite wider partnership with international organizations that are involved in the independency and self-sufficiency of Palestine and the Middle East peace process and to support the cooperation with international initiatives, including small, speedy grass-roots projects targeted at Palestinian communities and the Palestinian Economic Initiative by the Office of the Quartet Representative. In this regard, the participants appreciate the initial commitment of Japan of $20 million for the grass-roots projects.

The participants reaffirm that the CEAPAD meeting will be a forum to discuss, to exchange experiences and to add value to the already existing initiatives and processes that have been undertaken by countries in East Asia in assisting Palestinian development. Moreover, CEAPAD will serve as an effective tool to strengthen development cooperation among East Asian countries to support Palestinians, including Palestinian refugees.

The participants express gratitude to Indonesia for hosting the second CEAPAD.

Annex I

Outcome document in support of human resource development for Palestine

Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development aid coordination meeting

1. The participants confirmed, against the backdrop of the recent progress in the Middle East peace process, their strong determination to contribute to achieving peace through the realization of the "two-State solution" based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative in realizing the sustainable economic and social development of Palestine. In this regard, the participants emphasized that the development of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) enables its participants to play an even more important role in the development of Palestine.

2. The participants expressed their views that the CEAPAD participants would be able to contribute to supporting the Palestinian State-building efforts by sharing their experiences and lessons of their economic development of the past few decades. In this regard, the CEAPAD participants encourage other countries to participate in CEAPAD and to enhance the effectiveness of their assistance to Palestine.

3. In particular, the participants consider cooperation among East Asian countries as a useful tool to support Palestine in the field of human resource development. The participants expressed their willingness to continue sharing their good practices through aid coordination meetings and programmes aiming at achieving more effective and efficient cooperation among the participants. In addition, the participants highly appreciated the efforts made for the bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation for Palestine by the participants in the past.

4. The participants agreed that the CEAPAD aid coordination meeting could function as a forum/platform to coordinate assistance among the participants in human resource development for Palestine through matching Palestine's needs for assistance with the potential resources of the CEAPAD participants. The aid coordination meeting also facilitates participants to maximize the synergistic effects of their assistance and to avoid the duplication of projects among participants.

5. The participants welcomed the initiative by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop the CEAPAD coordination mechanism in support of technical cooperation for capacity development in Palestine, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development and the participants.

6. The participants welcomed Palestine's presentation of the list of priorities in human resource development assistance to the meeting. In response, the CEAPAD participants, taking into consideration the strength and comparative advantage of each participant's assistance towards Palestine, expressed their commitment to make the utmost efforts to develop assistance projects in accordance with Palestine's priorities, including the support to Palestinian refugees identified in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

7. The participants agreed to make an utmost effort to set a target number of capacity development activities in support of human resource development in Palestine. The target number set by the participants will be submitted to the second meeting of CEAPAD in 2014 in Indonesia.

8. The participants expressed the importance of holding regular CEAPAD aid coordination meetings to facilitate new assistance to Palestine and to review the progress of each participant's assistance under the framework of CEAPAD.

9. This forum adds value to, and honours, the existing mechanisms that are currently in place between Palestine and the participants.

As at 29 November 2013

Outcome document in support of human resource development for Palestine

Indicated priority areas of assistance

Sector	*Country*
Water	Japan, Indonesia
Tourism and antiquities	Japan, Thailand
Agriculture	Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia
Local governance	Japan, Republic of Korea
Economic (including small and medium-sized enterprises)	Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia
Vocational training	Thailand
Finance	Japan, Malaysia
Education	Singapore
Information and Communications Technology	Indonesia, Republic of Korea

Note: Other sectors will be added as the countries express their possibility of extending assistance.

- The individual sectors in the table above are open to the CEAPAD participants. Members can join or leave the groups according to their own assistance policy.
- The coordination in each group will be carried out through a focal point country to be decided in due course.

Outcome documents of the private sector promotion meeting of the Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development

3 December 2013, Tokyo

1. Background

(a) The first meeting of the Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) was held in Tokyo on 13 and 14 February 2013, in order to share the needs of Palestine, as well as the experience of the Asian economic development, and to mobilize resources of the participating countries.

(b) The political environment has seen some development since the last meeting, such as the resumption of direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine on 29 July 2013. While hope for a final status agreement has increased, a stable fiscal condition, a strong economy, trade access and equitable development are necessary in order to achieve a Palestinian sovereign State. A number of new international initiatives are being discussed, and some new donor efforts have been taking shape, since the resumption of the peace talks.

(c) The CEAPAD private sector promotion meeting was convened against that background on 2 and 3 December 2013 in Tokyo. The purpose of the meeting was to find ways and means to strengthen the Palestinian economy and its private sector, as well as to build and enhance business relations between Palestine and other CEAPAD participants.

(d) Participation of India at this private sector promotion meeting was warmly welcomed by Palestine and other CEAPAD participants, and it is welcome to participate in future CEAPAD meetings.

(e) Representatives from the private sectors also participated in the meeting, and enriched the discussions. Representatives from the Governments of Australia, Norway, the United States of America and the Office of the Quartet Representative also participated as special guests.

2. Business environment in Palestine

(a) The representative of Palestine elaborated on the economic situation in Palestine, highlighting the current severe fiscal crisis, high unemployment ratio and slow growth of gross domestic product. To overcome these difficulties, three strategic economic objectives were explained: (i) diversify the economy; (ii) develop an enabling business and investment environment; and (iii) enable and empower institutions to facilitate economic development and regulate markets.

(b) The representative of Palestine presented the progress that has been made by the Palestinian Government to meet the above-mentioned three objectives.

(c) The representative of Palestine highlighted the restrictions on foreign investments in Palestine, especially in Area C and East Jerusalem, owing to the Israeli occupation. The representative, however, also pointed out the tremendous potential available for economic development and private investments in Palestine if the Israeli restrictions were to be lifted and specific enablers put in place. The

current political environment and resumed peace talks will hopefully pave the way for windows of opportunity in the future.

3. Summary of discussions

(a) The participants underlined the need to support Palestinian State-building efforts, which must be accompanied by a sound fiscal situation, a diversified economy, a trade-competitive private sector and capable human resources.

(b) The participants expressed their intention to help Palestine in the development of its private sector and to promote investment and trade between Palestine and other CEAPAD participants. Stronger business relations between them are beneficial and desirable for both sides.

(c) The participants shared views on the usefulness of engaging in the following measures for the benefit of Palestine:

- To explore the potential for business opportunities, both investment and trade
- To find ways and means to facilitate private sector businesses
- To study possible financial incentives to induce investment
- To help build Palestinian human and institutional capacity for business promotion
- To help expand the Palestinian private sector's international networks and its access to international markets
- To support Palestinian women entrepreneurship

(d) The representative of Palestine pointed out that tourism, agriculture, information and communications technology (ICT), and light manufacturing can be targeted sectors that have high potential for development, at least for the short and mid-term.

(e) The participants expressed their intention to explore potential to cooperate with and/or support relevant ministries, organizations, agencies, institutions and initiatives for this purpose. The Chamber of Commerce, the Palestinian Investment Promotion Agency (PIPA), the Palestinian Industrial Estates and Free Zone Authority (PIEFZA), the Palestinian Trade Center (PALTRADE) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East are among those.

4. Future efforts

The participants confirm that the following are possible actions for strengthening the Palestinian private sector and enhancing economic relations between Asia and Palestine:

(a) Capacity-building

Through capacity-building measures, including training programmes, Asian participants will endeavour to share with Palestine the experiences, lessons and know-how of their economic and fiscal policies for private sector development. In view of the need to advance the CEAPAD agenda, the participants welcome the

proposal of the joint initiative moved by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to provide this alliance with a multilateral mechanism to enable the delivery of efficient and effective development assistance to Palestine. The proposed CEAPAD mechanism, in addition to the existing mechanism, is expected to pull together tremendous resources and expertise of the CEAPAD participating country Governments, development institutions, private and civil society entities, and other regional and international partners, and to channel such resources to address priority needs in Palestinian human development.

(b) Enhancing Asia-Palestine economic relations

- The CEAPAD participants will endeavour to organize events for facilitating trade, such as a trade fair, in their own countries.
- The CEAPAD participants intend to hold workshops to explore business opportunities and to find ways and means to facilitate businesses. The Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development, the Ministry of National Economy, the Palestinian Monetary Authority, PIPA, and the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce are among the relevant agencies that will be included in such seminars. All efforts to engage the relevant Palestinian agencies will be carried out through the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development.
- Indonesia informed that the Government of Indonesia will hold a CEAPAD business meeting and Expo on the sidelines of the second CEAPAD meeting in March 2014.
- The Palestinian officials in charge of foreign investment will be dispatched to Asian countries to induce investment from Asia to Palestine with the support from the receiving countries.
- IDB will consider supporting measures to induce investment and marketing activities in Palestine.
- CEAPAD will explore the possibility of launching a mechanism to facilitate investment and transfer of technology from Asia to Palestine.
- The CEAPAD participants will consider cooperation with ongoing initiatives stimulating the Palestinian economy, including the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park, through encouraging trade, investment and assistance.
- The CEAPAD participants will consider possible concrete steps to develop the Palestinian private sector's international networks with East Asian business communities.

(c) Cooperation with the international community

CEAPAD will coordinate with the international community's efforts for Palestinian economic development such as the Palestinian Economic Initiative and High Impact Micro-Infrastructure Initiative.

(d) Follow-up and second CEAPAD ministerial meeting in Indonesia

- The CEAPAD participants will review the progress of the above efforts and explore further measures to be taken for the promotion of the Palestinian private sector through working-level conferences.
- The discussion in the private sector promotion meeting will be reflected in the upcoming second CEAPAD ministerial meeting in Indonesia.

Annex II

List of human resources development programme

Indicated priority of assistance

No.	*Sector*	*Country*	*Programme*
1.	Water	Japan	Project for capacity strengthening for non-revenue water
			Technical assistance and capacity-building project for the Jericho sanitation project
2.	Tourism and antiquities	Indonesia	Training course on conservation and restoration of monuments and sites
		Japan	Project for sustainable tourism development through public-private partnership
		Thailand	Triangular cooperation project with Japan for Jericho's tourism development
3.	Agriculture	Indonesia	Triangular cooperation project with Japan
		Japan	Project on improved extension for value-added agriculture in Jordan Rift Valley
			Capacity-building project for agriculture promotion
			Capacity-building project in agricultural research and development
		Thailand	Not available
		Malaysia	Breeding and cross-breeding programmes for sheep breeds under field conditions
4.	Local governance	Japan	Project for improvement of local finance system
5.	Economic sector (including small and medium-sized enterprises, light manufacturing)	Indonesia	Training programme on business and technology incubator management
		Japan	Project for institutional strengthening of the management and services of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park
			Project for institutional strengthening of business development services for small and medium-sized enterprises
			Capacity-building project for small and medium-sized enterprises promotion

No.	*Sector*	*Country*	*Programme*
		Thailand	Not available
		Malaysia	Small and medium enterprises management
6.	Vocational training	Japan	Capacity-building in firefighting and rescue techniques
		Thailand	Not available
		Republic of Korea	Project for the establishment of Jenin Industrial Secondary School
			Project for the establishment of Kufr Ni'ma Industrial Secondary School
7.	Finance	Malaysia	Tax Auditing
			Measuring the performance of the Supreme Audit Institution
			Monetary sector (any)
8.	Education	Singapore	Capacity-building programmes such as vocational education pedagogy and leadership development for educators
9.	Public administration	Singapore	Sharing of experience in anti-corruption strategies
10.	ICT	Indonesia	Information technology workshop for small and medium-sized enterprises
		Republic of Korea	Project for the establishment of An-Najah IT Institute of Excellence
			Project for the establishment of a smart building and ICT centre in Ramallah
12.	Infrastructure	Indonesia	Project cycle management training
		Japan	Project for capacity development on solid waste management
			Electricity capacity-building project

Annex III

Private sector development programme

No.	*Country/Entity*	*Programme*
1.	Indonesia	CEAPAD Business Forum and Trade Expo, 1-2 March 2014
		Assistance to participate in Indonesia Trade Expo, 2014
2.	Japan	Assistance for Palestinian companies to participate in the international food and beverage exhibition (FOODEX JAPAN) in March 2014
		Follow-up of assistance for exports of Palestinian skin-care products to Japan
		Dispatch of an official mission from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to Palestine (February 2014) and its follow-up
		Programme for regional tourism promotion (March 2014)
		Fourth Japan-Arab economic forum (including Palestine)
3.	Islamic Development Bank	Organize thematic workshops involving NGOs, civil society and private sectors for developing exchange programme and twinning arrangements benefiting from expertise available from CEAPAD participating countries.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 140

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ken **Siah** (Singapore)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 27th and 34th meetings, on 3 and 28 March 2014. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/68/SR.27 and 34).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 and programme of work for 2014 (A/68/34) and a note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 (A/68/739).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/68/L.33

4. At its 34th meeting, on 28 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/68/L.33), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Sweden.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/68/L.33 without a vote (see para. 6).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008, 64/262 of 29 March 2010, 65/270 of 4 April 2011, 66/259 of 9 April 2012 and 67/256 of 12 April 2013,

Reaffirming the statute of the Unit[1] and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Unit for 2013 and programme of work for 2014[2] and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2013,[3]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 and programme of work for 2014;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013;[3]

3. *Reaffirms* that oversight is a shared responsibility of Member States, organizations and the internal and external oversight bodies;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the oversight functions of the Unit in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions within the participating organizations and providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations to improve and strengthen the governance of the United Nations as a whole;

5. *Recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the impact of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management efficiency and transparency of the participating organizations within the United Nations system;

6. *Notes* the need to enhance the effectiveness of the Unit and its system-wide oversight capability;

7. *Welcomes* the reform efforts undertaken by the Unit to better serve the interests of the participating organizations and Member States, including a self-evaluation, a peer review and the completion of norms and standards, and in this regard encourages the Unit to continue its efforts, including on selection of the

[1] Resolution 31/192, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/68/34).

[3] A/68/739.

subjects for its programme of work, and looks forward to receiving updates in the context of the annual reports of the Unit;

8. *Recalls* section II of its resolution 64/262 and section II of its resolution 61/238, and in this regard reaffirms the existing procedure for the appointment of the inspectors in accordance with article 3 of the statute of the Unit;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the recommendations of the Unit, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to consider optimizing the number of projects in its programme of work through prioritization;

12. *Also reiterates its request* to the Unit to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized in their deliberations;

13. *Reaffirms* article 20 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, in which it is stipulated that the Unit shall be invited to be represented at meetings when its budget estimates are being discussed;

14. *Requests* the heads of participating organizations to make full use of the web-based system of the Unit and to provide an in-depth analysis of how the recommendations of the Unit are being implemented;

15. *Welcomes* the benefit and utility of the web-based system for tracking recommendations.

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Agenda items 125 and 134

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/68/L.37

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ken **Siah** (Singapore)

1. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 26 and 28 March 2014, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/68/779) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/68/L.37. At the 33rd meeting, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/68/807). The draft decision submitted by the Chair following informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Ghana (A/C.5/68/L.34) was before the Committee (see para. 4).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/68/SR.33 and 34).

3. After the adoption of the draft decision, the representative of Singapore made a statement on behalf of the Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Decision of the Fifth Committee

4. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the

[1] A/68/779.

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Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, subject to the following:

(a) The Fifth Committee decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/68/L.37, net additional resources amounting to $194,300 would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, including an increase under section 24, Human rights ($9,855,200); section 28, Public information ($327,400); and section 29F, Administration, Geneva ($317,100), partially offset by a net decrease under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($10,305,400). Further, an additional amount of $751,200 would be required under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, this provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund;

(b) The Fifth Committee also decides to establish 38 posts (1 P-4, 33 P-3, 1 P-2 and 3 GS (Cther level)) effective 1 January 2015.

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[2] A/68/807.

United Nations A/68/821–S/2014/232

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Agenda items 33 (a) and 110

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 28 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

Certain websites have recently posted an audio recording of a meeting of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ahmet Davutoğlu, the Chief of the Turkish Intelligence Agency, Hakan Fidan, the Turkish Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Feridun Sinirlioğlu, and the Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces, Yaşar Güler. It is clear from the recording that the meeting took place recently, before the Turkish attack on the district of Kassab. Its purpose was to prepare for a Turkish attack on the Syrian Arab Republic and to create pretexts that would have conferred artificial legitimacy on that act of aggression.

During the meeting, the Turkish Foreign Minister stressed that the aggressive scheme must be consistent with international law. Turkey should appear as the victim, not the aggressor. The Chief of the Turkish Intelligence Agency said that he was prepared to manufacture any pretext to justify the attack. He said that he could send four people into Syrian territory, where they would launch eight rockets into an empty area of land in Turkey, or orchestrate an attack on the tomb of Sulayman Shah in Syrian territory. The Turkish Foreign Minister answered that Prime Minister Erdoğan had told him that an attack on the tomb of Sulayman Shah would be an opportunity that could be exploited to justify a Turkish military attack on Syria.

The recorded discussions prove what the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has stated in hundreds of formal letters, namely that Turkey has been supporting armed terrorist groups active in Syria. The Chief of the Turkish Intelligence Agency said that he had worked with the Qatari authorities to send weapons and ammunition to what he called rebels. He added that he had sent

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thousands of so-called fighters, i.e. extremist terrorists and foreign mercenaries, into Syrian territory against Government forces. He further stated that the Turkish authorities had sent over 2,000 vehicles laden with weapons and ammunition to the terrorist groups active in Syria.

Official statements issued by the Turkish Government and Prime Minister have confirmed that the recording is genuine. They denounced the leaking of a recording of a national security meeting as an immoral act. The Turkish authorities, which repeatedly and mendaciously claim to uphold human rights, have muzzled free speech, clamped down on liberties and saturated the media with warnings against the websites that posted the recording. Similar warnings have been issued to other social networks and websites that enable freedom of expression.

The Turkish Government and Armed Forces ignore the fact that the truly immoral act is their own support for terrorists. For three years, since the outset of the crisis in Syria, those terrorists have targeted Syria's people, State institutions, infrastructure and private property. Lying to the international community to justify aggression, and subsequently enlisting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, would be the lowest form of political and moral depravity, not to mention a violation of the most basic principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the underpinnings of relations between States.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to draw the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to that aggressive scheme and to Turkey's malicious intentions towards the Syrian Arab Republic. The Security Council must immediately shoulder its responsibility to preserve international peace and security. It must condemn the Turkish Government for backing terrorism, and hold it fully responsible for violating the sovereignty of a Member State and supporting the armed terrorist groups that attack Syrian territory from Turkish territory. The Council must warn Turkey of the consequences of persisting in its fatuous aggressive policies in the Middle East.

The audio recording can be accessed at the following link: http://youtube.com/watch?v=GhL0N1HLhNs.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 (a) and 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 28 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 26 March 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras, Mireya Agüero de Corrales (see annex).

That letter is addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador, Jaime Alfredo Miranda Flamenco, and concerns a number of issues in relation to the situation in the Gulf of Fonseca.

In this connection, I respectfully request that the present letter and its annex be circulated to all the States Members of the United Nations and issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mary E. **Flores**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 28 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 26 March 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador

Tegucigalpa, 26 March 2014

I have the honour to refer to the note dated 24 March 2014 from the President of El Salvador, Mr. Mauricio Funes, to the President of Honduras, Mr. Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, and to state the following:

1. In relation to the subject of the litigation, Honduras and El Salvador, in article 2 of their special agreement of 24 May 1986, requested the International Court of Justice "... 2. To determine the legal situation of the islands and maritime spaces".

2. With respect to this request from the parties, El Salvador consistently, in all of its written submissions and also during the oral proceedings, asked the Court to determine "that El Salvador has and had sovereignty over all the islands in the Gulf of Fonseca, with the exception of the Island of Zacate Grande, which can be considered as forming part of the coast of Honduras".

3. It is surprising that such a misinformed, audacious and easily challenged statement was made at the highest level, as it must be borne in mind that the Court, in its judgment of 11 September 1992, decided that it had jurisdiction to determine the legal situation of all the islands of the Gulf, but that such jurisdiction should only be exercised in respect of those islands which had been shown to be the subject of a dispute; that the islands shown to be in dispute between the parties are El Tigre, Meanguera and Meanguerita; that the Island of El Tigre is part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Honduras; that the Island of Meanguera is part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of El Salvador; and that the Island of Meanguerita is part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of El Salvador (para. 431, subparas. (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5), respectively, of the judgment of 11 September 1992).

4. It follows from the foregoing that even though El Salvador may have considered "all the islands of the Gulf" to be in dispute and requested the Court to recognize its sovereignty over them, the Court was of the opinion that the other islands had not been shown during the proceedings to be in dispute; that, accordingly, El Salvador could not and did not show any evidence or credible principle whereby its claims should take precedence over the rights which Honduras exercises and has always exercised over Conejo Island; and that, consequently, the Court ruled against El Salvador's claims other than those relating to the islands of Meanguera and Meanguerita.

5. The Government of Honduras has regarded the legal situation of the islands in the Gulf of Fonseca as res judicata since 11 September 1992.

6. Nonetheless, on 10 September 2002, the Government of El Salvador filed with the International Court of Justice an application for revision of the 11 September 1992 judgment with respect to the sector containing the mouth of the Goascorán River, to which Conejo Island is attached; in fact, a sandbar is exposed at low tide between the island and the Honduran coast (see the illustration in the appendix). Your Government filed that application in the hope that, if the Court found it admissible, a new ruling might be issued whereby the sector containing the mouth of the Goascorán River and Conejo Island, as a part thereof, would be recognized as belonging to El Salvador. The Court found that application inadmissible in its judgment of 18 December 2003.

7. In the light of the failed application for revision, your Government invoked another artificial claim to Conejo Island, which was rejected by the Government of Honduras, even though it is merely what legal experts refer to as a "paper claim" with no substance. This means that the same Salvadoran claim has been litigated twice, once in relation to the Goascorán sector and once in relation to Conejo Island, and the outcome in both cases was in Honduras's favour.

8. Moreover, it is a contradiction in terms to attempt to characterize as "expansionist" the exercise of sovereignty by a State, Honduras, within its own territory, as legally delimited by the International Court of Justice. The time has come to abide by the decisions of the Court, as El Salvador has exhausted all legal remedies.

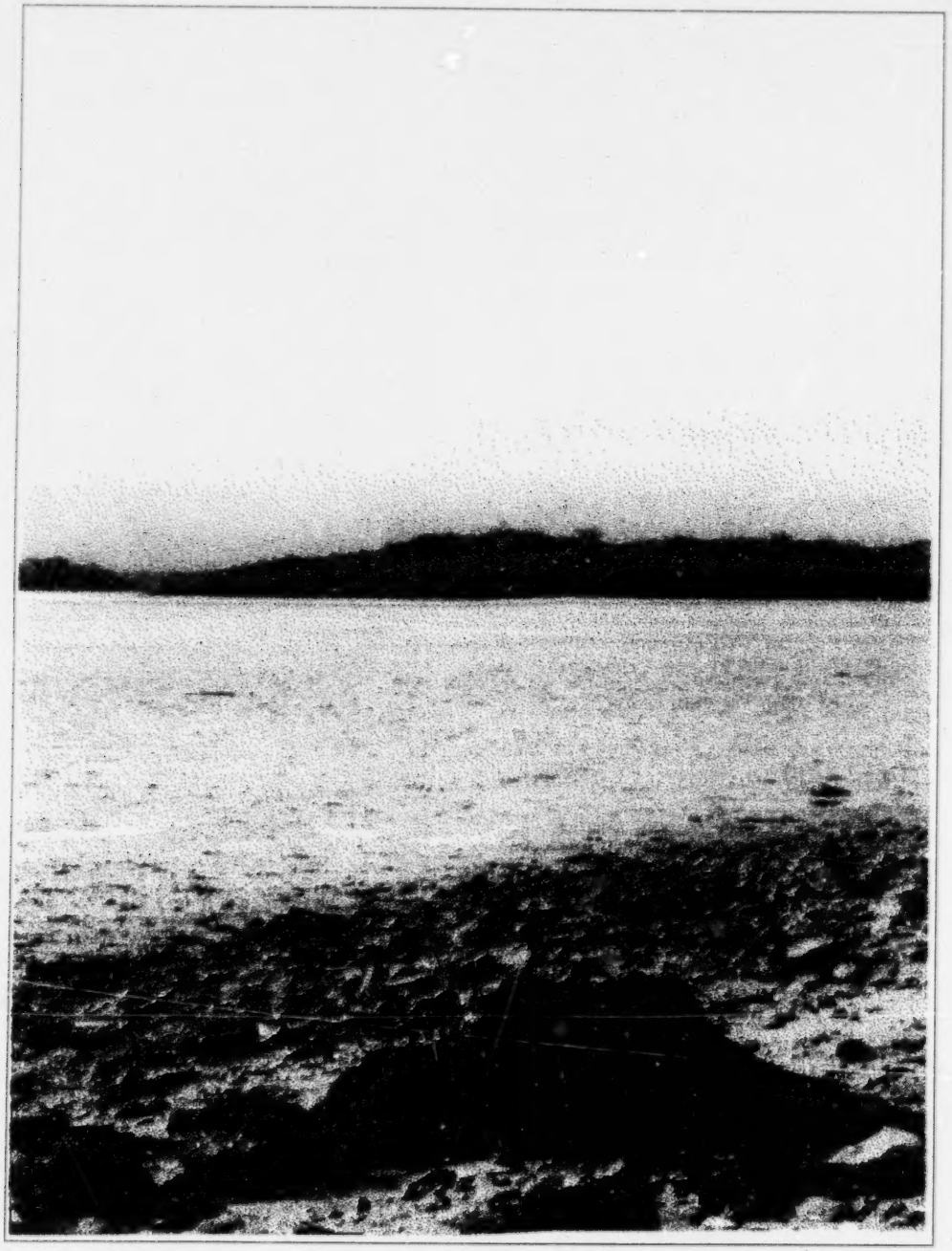
9. The claim to these islands recently took an unexpected turn when the highest authorities of El Salvador stated that they lacked the military capability to claim sovereignty over Conejo Island, and then, on 30 October 2013, announced the procurement of a squadron of A-37 military attack aircraft, presumably in order to provide El Salvador with the military capability it had previously claimed to lack, in the climate of artificial tension created by your Government to oppose Honduran sovereignty. Honduras feels threatened by El Salvador's build-up of its military capability, which disrupts the balance of power against the backdrop of a dangerous media campaign.

10. Lastly, I wish to reiterate the political will of the Government of Honduras to engage in constructive bilateral and trilateral dialogue on the comprehensive development of the Gulf of Fonseca and on the delimitation, by agreement and on the basis of international law, of our respective maritime areas in the Pacific Ocean starting from the mouth of the Gulf, so as to ensure that these projections of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone and the continental shelf are also zones of cooperation and mutual interest for the coastal States, their respective peoples and the friendly nations of the world that wish to see this region make strides on the path to prosperity.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Mireya **Agüero de Corrales**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Appendix



The Honduran coast seen from Conejo Island at low tide; photograph by Luis Torres.